(a) whether it is a fact that for want of environmental clearance, construction work of the Dalli-Rajahra-Jagdalpur rail-line is not getting completed;

(b) whether Government is aware of the fact that the completion of this rail-line will expedite the development in Chhattisgarh. particularly in tribal areas;

(c) the reasons for delay in according environmental clearance to this rail-line; and

(d) by when this rail-line will be accorded environmental clearance?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) As per the Environment Impact Assessment (EIA) Notification, 2006, Railway projects do not require clearance from environmental angle. However, railway projects, involving forest land, require prior approval of the Central Government under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980. Accordingly, the Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat rail line project involving diversion of 259.54 ha of forest land was accorded in-principle approval on 09.09.2005 with the condition that final approval will be considered after the receipt of the compliance report.

(b) The Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat rail line project was accorded in-principle approval by the Central Government after taking into account the socio-economic development of the tribal people of the region besides facilitating transport of iron ore.

(c) The final approval to the Dalli-Rajhara-Rowghat rail line project has not been accorded, so far, due to non-receipt of the compliance report from the State Government.

(d) As soon as the compliance report will be received, the final approval shall be considered under the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Mission for coastal and island ecological security

*360. SHRI D. RAJA:

SHRI M.P. ACHUTHAN:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a threat of sea level rising due to global warming and it will be a great threat to the safety of coastal communities;

(b) if so, whether Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has suggested to set up a mission for coastal and island ecological security; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FOREST (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (c) As per the study of the tide gauge records of the north Indian Ocean for more than 40 years, conducted by the National Institute of Oceanography, it is observed that the sea-level rose by 1.06-1.75 millimeters per year in the past century. This estimate is consistent with the estimated global sea-level rise of 1-2 millimeters per year made by the Inter Governmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).

As per India's first National Communication, a one metre sea level rise is projected to displace approximately 7.1 million people in India and about 5764 sq. km. of land area will be lost.

There is no proposal for setting up a Mission for coastal and island ecological security. However, the Committee under the Chairmanship of Dr. M.S. Swaminathan has recommended a separate Island Protection Zone Notification for the integrated management of the islands.

WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

Coal Production

2617. SHRI JAI PRAKASH NARAYAN SINGH: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal production in the country has increased during the last one year;

(b) if so, the details in this regard, colliery-wise;

(c) what is the import of coal during 2008-09;

(d) whether the Coal India Limited (CIL) has e-auctioned the coal during the last year; and

(e) if so, the quantity of coal sold through such auction during the above period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The coal production during 2008-09 has increased from 457.082 million tonnes in 2007-08 to 492.757 million tonnes in 2008-09. The colliery-wise production is annexed at Annexure - A, B and C.

[*See* Appendix 218 Annexure No.11]

(c) The import of coal during 2008-09 was 59.00 million tonnes.

(d) and (e) 40.457 million tonnes of coal and coal products have been sold through e-auction by CIL during 2008-09. SCCL has sold 2.634 million tonnes of coal through e-auction during 2008-09.

Development and production by coal blocks

2618. SHRI RAMA CHANDRA KHUNTIA: Will the Minister of COAL be pleased to state:

(a) whether coal blocks have started developing and producing coal which were allocated to different public and private sectors during the last three years; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COAL (SHRI SRIPRAKASH JAISWAL): (a) and (b) As on date 208 coal blocks have been allocatted to various public and private sector